

The Origin of Zombie Night at Pacificon



Years ago after the founding of HFpack, Bonnie Crystal KQ6XA and others loved to hike up trails with tall antennas attached to packs strapped to our backs. We discovered that if one operated on the low bands in the dead of Night around Midnight, we were rewarded with dozens of great, long distance contacts. Like the NorCAL QRP Club members, we also looked like a bunch of Zombies running amok and stumbling into the night. We reached critical mass, and the West Coast HF-pack Zombie Radio Group was born at Pacificon. Other Zombie Radio groups in the South West and East Coasts do exist, so we all enjoyed issuing "Zombie Alerts" when it was time to head out with our backpack radios and tall antennas. That.. was then !

After the Zombie Apocalypse struck Silicon Valley, most of the hams who were HFpackers had turned into REAL Zombies. One fateful evening when Bonnie was directing emergency traffic from her HF pedestrian Mobile backpack, she found herself completely surrounded by hungry, shuffling Zombies. When the dead ham operators were exposed to the intense magnetic and E fields radiating from Bonnie's tall antenna, their decomposing brains became rejuvenated. Enough cellular regeneration had occurred to allow them all to remember their favorite hobby, which of course was Amateur Radio. Instead of hungering for flesh, these Radio Zombies had the intense desire to call CQ, and felt satisfied after absorbing a nourishing dose of HF RF. VHF RF from Handi-Talkies also worked in stopping flesh eating Zombie Attacks dead in their tracks. Many of the HFpack Dead began remembering their former call signs, and enjoyed being reunited with their favorite radios and antennas. It was quite emotional as everyone slowly regained their speech and CW centers.

Shown in the main image is what had become an HFpack Zombie Radio tradition at Pacificon. During Zombie Night, all HFpack Radio Zombies, NorCAL Zombies, or anyone dead or partially alive would reunite for a fun evening of playing radio, and feasting on HF RF. Strong magnetic fields found near small magnetic loop antennas provided the most efficient way to feed hundreds of rejuvenated Radio Zombies. The Operating Dead were overjoyed when they grasped their favorite radios, and began remembering how to setup their former portable antennas. Breaking into big Zombie Pileups was another favorite pastime among Radio Zombies, who would start things rolling by calling CQ ZOMBIE. Shambling to the top of a Zombie pileup became great fun for all, and difficult to resist.

When at the Santa Clara Marriott. look for Eric WD6DBM our chief Net Control.

You might spot Bonnie KQ6XA (who recently turned Zombie herself after the Hong Kong Apocalypse)
Please join us at the HFpack Zombie Night ! 73 de Ken WB6MLC (Dead battery Ken)